Met Office wins Civil Service Award

25 November - The Met Office Atmospheric Dispersion Group have won the Science, Engineering & Technology Award at the prestigious Civil Service Awards.

This award recognises Met Office scientists from the Atmospheric Dispersion Group for developing atmospheric dispersion modelling capabilities and exploiting them to provide expert advice to key partners across a range of other government and non-departmental government bodies.

Two natural hazard events occurred in the first half of 2011, for which an authoritative and customer-focused response was essential, exploiting world-leading atmospheric dispersion science. The Met Office provided support in response to the Fukushima nuclear reactor incident in Japan and the eruption of the Grimsvotn volcano in Iceland with the highest degree of professionalism.

Dr Dave Jones, Head of Customer Applications at the Met Office said: "It is fantastic that the Atmospheric Dispersion Group here at the Met Office has been recognised for their dedication and professionalism in providing this critical service for the UK.

"Working closely with key partners across the UK, the team works around-the-clock to provide expert advice to agencies and organisations such as the airline community, Department of Transport and the Government's Scientific Advisory Group in Emergencies (SAGE) when it really matters."

Following the Chernobyl nuclear reactor accident in 1986, the Met Office developed NAME (Numerical Atmospheric-dispersion Modelling Environment) in order to predict the likely transport and deposition of radioactive material from future incidents. Using wind and precipitation forecast data from the Met Office's world-leading computer forecast model, the Unified Model, to predict the dispersion of atmospheric contaminants, NAME is now in its third generation and is used for an extensive range of purposes including the transport of volcanic ash

Contact details

Members of the media can email: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk or call us on +44 (0)1392 886655*.

Out-of-hours an operator will contact the on-duty press officer.

**If your call is not a media enquiry you should contact our Customer Centre on 0870 9000100.*

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